

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 182489
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 DHA-02 /082 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:GCHESTER:LR
APPROVED BY EUR/CE:WWOESSNER
EUR/SOV:GMATTHEWS (INFO)
L/EUR:JWILLIS (INFO)
-----075353 040452Z /15

P R 032203Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 182489

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOB, WB, UK, UR, VS, FR

SUBJECT: RUDOLF HESS: REPLIES TO LETTERS FROM
FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS AND FRG CHURCH LEADERS

REF: BONN 10908, BONN 11582

1. SECRETARY HAS SIGNED LETTERS DATED JULY 29 TO
FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS, CARDINAL HOFFNER AND BISHOP CLASS.
LETTERS HAVE BEEN POUCHED TO EMBASSY BONN FOR
FORWARDING (RECEIPT NO. 3640905).
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 182489

2. STRAUSS LETTER STATES AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT:
I AM REPLYING ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT TO YOUR LETTER
OF MARCH 30 CONCERNING THE INCARCERATION OF RUDOLF
HESS. MAY I FIRST EXPRESS MY REGRET FOR THE DELAY. YOUR
LETTER UNFORTUNATELY WAS MISDIRECTED UPON ITS
RECEIPT IN WASHINGTON AND HAS ONLY NOW COME TO MY

ATTENTION.

AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT RUDOLF HESS SHOULD BE RELEASED UNCONDITIONALLY ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS, AS HAVE THE BRITISH AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS. THE THREE ALLIES HAVE APPROACHED THE SOVIET UNION ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS (IN 1964, 1966, 1970, 1975, 1976 AND EARLIER THIS YEAR SPECIFICALLY) REQUESTING THAT HESS BE FREED, AND ON EACH OCCASION THE SOVIETS HAVE REFUSED. SINCE MR. HESS IS IMPRISONED UNDER THE TERMS OF FOUR-POWER AGREEMENTS, HIS RELEASE REQUIRES THE CONSENT OF ALL OF THE FOUR POWERS.

WITH RESPECT TO THE QUESTION OF MR. HESS' HEALTH, THE AUTHORITIES IN CHARGE OF SPANDAU HAVE GIVEN THIS MATTER CLOSE ATTENTION. MR. HESS RECEIVES ADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE AND HAS BEEN EXAMINED BY DOCTORS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THIS YEAR. AFTER HIS MOST RECENT THOROUGH MEDICAL EXAMINATION, THE PHYSICIANS WERE OF THE VIEW THAT, TAKING HIS AGE INTO ACCOUNT, HIS MENTAL AND PHYSICAL CONDITION ARE SATISFACTORY.

I ASSURE YOU THAT OUR GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE SEEKING FOUR-POWER AGREEMENT TO THE RELEASE OF MR. HESS AND WILL CONTINUE TAKING APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ENSURE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 182489

THAT THE CONDITIONS OF HIS IMPRISONMENT REMAIN DECENT.
END TEXT.

3. TEXTS OF IDENTICAL LETTERS TO CHURCHMEN READ AS
FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT:

I AM REPLYING ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT TO YOUR LETTER OF JUNE 22, SIGNED ALSO BY BISHOP CLASS (CARDINAL HOFFNER), CONCERNING THE IMPRISONMENT OF RUDOLF HESS. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT RUDOLF HESS SHOULD BE RELEASED ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS, AS HAVE THE GOVERNMENTS OF FRANCE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM. HOWEVER, MR. HESS IS IMPRISONED UNDER THE TERMS OF FOUR-POWER AGREEMENTS, AND HIS RELEASE WOULD REQUIRE UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT. THE WESTERN ALLIES HAVE APPROACHED THE SOVIETS ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS, MOST RECENTLY THIS YEAR, BUT THE RESPONSE HAS IN EACH CASE BEEN NEGATIVE.

I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE

TO WORK TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF MR. HESS AND WILL
TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT THE CONDITIONS

OF HIS IMPRISONMENT ARE ALLEVIATED TO THE GREATEST
EXTENT POSSIBLE.
END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE182489
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GCHESTER:LR
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770279-0033
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708100/aaaadgyb.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3bad8c4e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BONN 10908, 77 BONN 11582
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1399063
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RUDOLF HESS: REPLIES TO LETTERS FROM FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS AND FRG CHURCH LEADERS
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, WB, UK, UR, VS, FR, (HESS, RUDOLF), (STRAUSS, JOSEF)
To: BONN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3bad8c4e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009